

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8476

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2054

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CG, PINR

SUBJECT: BOPEYA REPLACED BY ELUKI AS ZAIRIAN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
NATIONAL DEFENSE

REF: A. KINSHASA 1796; B. KINSHASA 1944

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF
GENERAL ELUKI AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL
DEFENSE. ELUKI REPLACES BRIGADIER GENERAL BOPEYA WHO REPORTEDLY
WAS RELIEVED OF DUTIES AS CONSEQUENCE OF ALLEGED MID-FEBRUARY COUP
PLOT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEB. 28, GOZ ANNOUNCED THAT BRIGADIER GENERAL ELUKI MONGA
AUNDU HAD BEEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL
DEFENSE AND TERRITORIAL SECURITY (DDNST). THERE WAS SIMULTANEOUS
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BRIGADIER GENERAL BOPEYA LEKOBOKO HAD BEEN REMOVED
FROM THAT FUNCTION.

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3. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DDNST IS IN CHARGE OF ALL THE HOUSEKEEPING
ACTIVITIES OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, I. E., PERSONNEL, BUDGET,
PROCUREMENT, POLITICAL TRAINING, ETC. AS SUCH, HE AND HIS OFFICES
ARE SEPARATE FROM THE ZAIRIAN GENERAL STAFF WHICH COMES UNDER
THE DE FACTO CONTROL OF LT. GEN. BABIA AS COORDINATOR OF THE GENERAL
STAFF (IR 68210244 77).

4. BRIGADIER GENERAL ELUKI HAS MOST RECENTLY BEEN COMMANDER OF THE SPECIAL BRIGADE, THE UNIT WHICH PROVIDES FOR PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S PERSONAL SECURITY. THAT BRIGADE INCLUDES THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, THE 1ST PARACHUTE BATTALION AND ELEMENTS OF THE MAKONDO BRIGADE. BORN IN KINSHASA IN 1941, GEN. ELUKI HAS ATTENDED ZAIRIAN OFFICERS SCHOOL, THE BELGIAN MILITARY ACADEMY AND THE BELGIAN WAR COLLEGE; HE HAS ALSO VISITED THE UNITED STATES ON A MILITARY TOUR. A PARACHUTIST, HE ACHIEVED GENERAL OFFICER RANK AT THE VERY END OF 1977 (IR 68210301 77). CONSIDERED INTENSELY LOYAL TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU, HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY AN AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICER AS SELF-CONFIDENT TO THE POINT OF BEING COCKY.

5. COMMENT: AS REFTELS REPORTED, GENERAL BOPEYA CAME UNDER A CLOUD DURING THE ALLEGED COUP PLOT IN MID-FEBRUARY AND REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN ARRESTED. MORE RECENT INFORMATION INDICATES THAT HE PROBABLY WAS NOT ARRESTED BUT WAS INTERROGATED AND CLEARED OF CHARGES THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE PLOT. WE BELIEVE HE LOST HIS JOB AS DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POOR JUDGMENT CONCERNING PEOPLE ACCUSED OF PLOTTING, AND FOR FAILING TO EXERCISE CONTROLS OVER MILITARY MATERIAL. IT IS STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER GENERAL ELUKI, IN ADDITION TO HIS NEWLY ACQUIRED HOUSEKEEPING POSITION, WILL CONTINUE AS COMMANDER OF SPECIAL BRIGADE. IF SO, HE CLEARLY HAS BECOME ONE OF ZAIRE'S MOST IMPORTANT MILITARY FIGURES. IN ANY EVENT, THIS NEW APPOINTMENT IS PROOF OF MOBUTU'S CONFIDENCE AND THEREFORE A SIGNIFICANT STEP UPWARD FOR ELUKI.

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